

Anderson, Diane

ORIGINAL

FILED

12/13/2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Michael Emch <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 9:52 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Montana Marriage

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I stand with the lawyers, and that's a statement I thought I'd NEVER say.

Really, has this state fallen so far from it's good sense we are like California, lacking values and direction?

""But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'

'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.""

Mark 10:6-9 NIV

Where does it say Adam and Matt will be joined, or Eve and Ellen. Nope doesn't say that but you all feel you can rewrite our lives and force down us your agenda an do what you want.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Emch
PO Box 30511
Billings, MT 59107-0511
(406) 788-4746
emch1837@gmail.com

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Mark Mizner-Welch <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 10:22 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Rules of Professional Conduct "Rule8.4(g)"

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

As a native Montana, business owner, concerned citizen, and a Christian, I am appalled that the Court would be considering adopting the sanctions imposed by this rule change. The Court will, in effect, be telling all attorneys that they no longer can exercise religious freedoms in their profession, and that their adherence to Christian values must violate their own conscience in order to practice law in Montana. This extreme government overreach deteriorates the very fabric of our society, trampling not only on religious freedoms but free speech guarantees as well. The social pendulum as it has moved far to the liberal left is fueled not by protection of a class of citizens, but rather by a political agenda aimed at mandating social norms for a small minority upon the entirety of our society. I urge the Court to place this proposed rule change upon the trash heap of failed public policies whence it belongs, and to resist the efforts at social tinkering that will adversely impact our society for generations to come.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Mizner-Welch
186 Renzim Ct
Seeley Lake, MT 59868-8526
miznerwelch@blackfoot.net

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Judy Crabtree Trenka <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 9:52 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Marriage is between a man and a woman

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Please understand that even if you don't agree with a belief, lawyers ought not to be disbarred for holding it. I believe what the Bible says, " a marriage is between a man and a woman" . I would only hire a lawyer that held my similar beliefs.

This rule is a violation of the freedom of speech and the free exercise of religion.

I hope you will reject this rule change.

Thank you,

Judy Crabtree Trenka
903 Bench Blvd.
Billings, MT 59105
judy@montana.net

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Ms. Judy Crabtree Trenka
903 Bench Blvd
Billings, MT 59105-3305
judy@montana.net

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of keith Bottjen <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 10:22 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: rule 8.4 g

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

If what they are saying is true, I cannot understand anyone considering such a stupid idea of being able to disbar an attorney for standing up for Biblical guidelines!

If I am understanding this correctly then I would certainly ask you do scrap the idea and stop trying to destroy Christian standards to appease those who are trying to cram their lifestyles down our throats!

In other words, I trust you will reject this rule change!

Sincerely,
Keith Bottjen
370 Aronson Place
Billings, Montana 59105
kcbottjen@yahoo.com

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. keith Bottjen
370 Aronson Pl
Billings, MT 59105-2120
(406) 281-2157
kcbottjen@yahoo.com

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of
Denya Jacobs <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 9:52 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: New paragraph 8.4g

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

The addition of this paragraph would restrict the free speech of lawyers. Our society has become so easily offended that people call it harassment and discrimination whenever they are offended. The addition of this paragraph would only worsen the problem and open the door for scrutinizing every word a lawyer utters. I urge you to consider this and to preserve freedom of speech for lawyers as well as all citizens.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Denya Jacobs
130 David Dr
Belgrade, MT 59714-7518
(406) 599-2241
denya33@hotmail.com

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Stan Seagraves <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 9:21 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Rule 8.4(g) - Professional Conduct Rules

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I have carefully read the proposed language for the new paragraph (g) addition to Rule 8.4, have done some balanced homework on the subject, and wish to voice my strongest opposition.

Democrat in upbringing, liberal in disposition and raised by an old school attorney, I find the language and its implications absolutely chilling. Montana is a state which is rightfully proud of its intelligent brand of progressivism - and the stifling language and its implications has surely given the Montana Supreme Court pause. It is ironic indeed that the ABA and others who purport to be the leaders and banner-carriers for the legal profession, who have among their expressed purposes, the preservation of fairness and free expression, are promoting such draconian, circular and abuse-prone language.

Existing protections are more than sufficient; if further pursued, the language must be dramatically modified in order to protect first amendment rights. This is not a "conservative vs liberal" issue - it is an issue of fairness, freedom of speech, and the legal professions very integrity.

Sincerely,

Stan Seagraves MD
6000 Wildcat Road
Missoula, MT 59802

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stan Seagraves
6000 Wildcat Rd
Missoula, MT 59802-5231
(406) 542-1312
gobeavs837@hotmail.com

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DEC 13 2016
Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Marianne Dyon <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 9:21 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: A lawyer could lose his or her job for publicly saying "Marriage is between one man and one woman."

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I do not want you to support this bill in any way. Please do not pass it.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Ms. Marianne Dyon
1574 Hodgson Rd
Whitefish, MT 59937-8417
marianned7@centurytel.net

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Anderson, Diane

ORIGINAL

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Dianne Vaught <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 9:21 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: paragraph (g) addition to Rules of Professional Conduct

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I writing to request that the court reject the proposed addition to The Montana Code for Professional Conduct.

Here are just a few reasons why the paragraph (g) should be rejected:

- (1) On the face of it, it is a clear violation of the 1st Amendment to free speech.
- (2) The addition is vague. Who gets to define "discrimination"?
- (3) It repudiates our country's Christian heritage.
- (4) It creates a vehicle to harass and potentially destroy the careers of men and women lawyers who believe in traditional American moral values.

More reasons could certainly be listed, but the above mention suffice to call for the outright rejection of the preposed addition.

Sincerely,

Dianne Vaught
712 N. Montana
Bozeman, MT 59715
sdv1954@yahoo.com

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dianne Vaught
712 N Montana Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715-2921
(406) 570-5860

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of John Fuller <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 7:21 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Proposed rule "8.4(g).

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I find it "deplorable" that the Court is considering a rule that is a clear violation of freedoms of speech, religion and association as a code of conduct for lawyers. Lawyers already have an extensive code of ethic; are subject to the rulings of the bench when in court and do not need such a draconian interpretation of perverted agendas as mandated speech.

This proposed rule is venturing into the political arena in violation of the U.S., & Montana Constitutions.

Please reject proposed rule "8.4(g)."

John Fuller
248 Eagle View Trail
Whitefish, MT 59937
fullersguesthouse@gmail.com

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. John Fuller
248 Eagle View Trl
Whitefish, MT 59937-3362
fullersguesthouse@gmail.com

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of
Dennis Newton <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 8:51 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Please reject rule change 8.4 (g)

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Please reject rule 8.4 (g). I do not believe any lawyer should be disbarred because of their opinion on sexual orientation.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dennis Newton
57 John Deere Ln
Joliet, MT 59041-9477
(406) 962-3158
brookstone@180com.net

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of MAUREEN TAKEUCHI <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 8:21 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Rule change 8.4 (g)

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I believe this is discrimination

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Ms. MAUREEN TAKEUCHI
11 Sharptail Ridge Rd
Columbus, MT 59019-7445
(406) 321-2974
mike_mo77@hotmail.com

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of David & Danette Preble <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 7:21 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Freedom

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

We disagree with the opinions of many in our present society. And we believe that many of the ideas presented, if enacted would be dangerous. But even more threatening is the loss of the freedom of speech. If the right to express their thoughts and beliefs is denied one group of people, all will soon be denied.

The proposed rule change must not be allowed!

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. David & Danette Preble
32 Sunset Dr
Kalispell, MT 59901-2348
(406) 253-9514
pdaviddanette@yahoo.com

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Cynthia Hunt-Fuller <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 7:21 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Opposition to proposed rule 8.4(g)

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

This proposed rule puts "prior restraint" on Christians practicing law. It is a violation of freedom of religion, speech and association. Attempting to suppress the Christian legal community is the obvious goal of this rule. Why is Christian doctrine being singled out?

Please reject proposed rule 8.4(g).

Cynthia Hunt-Fuller
248 Eagle View Trail
Whitefish, MT 59937
mississippi2montana1990@gmail.com

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cynthia Hunt-Fuller
248 Eagle View Trl
Whitefish, MT 59937-3362
mississippi2montana1990@gmail.com

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Rick Vaught <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 7:21 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Proposed amendment to Rules of Professional Conduct

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I respectfully request that you reject the new paragraph (g) proposed addition to Rule 8.4. of the Montana Rules of Professional Conduct.

As written (specifically: "... sexual orientation, gender identity...") opens the door to actual discrimination against Christian lawyers for their sincerely held beliefs. Not to mention serving as a clear violation of their 1st Amendment right to free speech. Whoever wrote this is seeking to create a vehicle to use the coercive power of government to censor God fearing lawyers.

Just another step in the ongoing cultural war.

Another far reaching consideration: if a society repudiates God, the one who defines "justice", then they open the door to the law of the jungle where everyone makes up their own rules as they go. History records that tyranny always follows the anarchy which comes after moral decay.

Our founding fathers in the Declaration of Independence acknowledged our "Creator". They were referring to the God who has revealed Himself in the Bible, not some other pagan deity invented by man. To include this new paragraph (g) would throw over three hundred years of American Christian heritage out the window!

Prudence dictates that we should think very carefully before we substitute our own wisdom in place of that of our founding fathers.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rick Vaught
712 N Montana Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715-2921
(406) 579-9779
rickvght@yahoo.com

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of James and Janine Shaffer <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 6:51 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Free Speech Please.

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Dear Supreme Court of Montana:

Please uphold Freedom of Speech in all our rules. After all you do reside on behalf of us all, don't you?

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. James and Janine Shaffer
11 Sphinx Dr Unit 6
Gardiner, MT 59030-9338
shaffer33@wispwest.net

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DEC 13 2016
Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Justin McKerrow <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 6:51 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: opposed to proposed rule change 8.4 (g)

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Please do not adopt this rule as it will violate the free exercise of religion and freedom of speech. Whether the lawyer agrees or disagrees with the subject matter being discussed in a court of law, he or she should be allowed to discuss all matters relating to gender identity, sexual orientation, and marriage without worrying about being reprimanded or disbarred. It is in the court of law, where all things should be considered as we judge our society. By threatening the lawyer who discusses such sensitive issues with misconduct, this rule change has the potential to give a very vocal minority the power to silence the majority.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Justin McKerrow
15 Mountain Park Ln
Kalispell, MT 59901-6304
mckerrowja@yahoo.com

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Marcia Murdock <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 6:51 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Rule Change 8.4(g)

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

This rule should not be enacted, It would rob citizens and those who represent us of yet another freedom.

This proposed rule is a violation of the free exercise of religion.

This proposed rule is a violation of the freedom of speech and of the press.

Even if you don't agree with a belief, lawyers ought not to be disbarred for holding it.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Ms. Marcia Murdock
PO Box 5281
Whitefish, MT 59937-5281
m3finishingtouches@gmail.com

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DEC 13 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Starla Fox <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 6:21 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: opposition to rule change "8.4(g)"

Dec 8, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

If this change were made, it would violate the free exercise of religion of each lawyer and also violate the freedom of speech and of the press. Even if you don't agree with a belief, lawyers should not be disbarred for holding it. As a lifetime Montana resident I ask that you not vote in favor of this change and allow all lawyers to freely serve this State with their beliefs and freedom to express their beliefs without fear of being disbarred for them.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Starla Fox
37 Broken Leg Road
Bigfork, MT 59911
starscoffechat@yahoo.com

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DEC 13 2016
Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA